

Congressman Ryan Applauds Tech Belt Innovation Center on New Home in Warren

(Warren, OH) – Congressman Tim Ryan (OH-17) applauded the Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center (TBEIC) on their new location: the Kresge Building on Courthouse Square in downtown Warren. This building will serve as the future home of the energy business incubator, and will provide resources and services to early-stage companies.

“The Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center will be catalytic for this community,” stated Congressman Ryan.

□ “By supporting entrepreneurship and innovation, this facility will create the environment that we need to generate ideas, wealth and jobs.□ The Mahoning Valley has a history of success in the automobile and steel industries; now we have the infrastructure to create that same kind of success in alternative energy.”

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TBEIC selected the Kresge Building because of its location in the heart of Warren’s business district and close proximity to the new Eastern Gateway Community College Warren Center (encouraging future co-op opportunities between students and TBEIC users), as well as the building’s ability to accommodate office space and technical facilities. Ryan, a member of the powerful U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations, was instrumental in the development of the project by securing \$2.2 million for the “greening” of the facility in FY2010 federal appropriations legislation. Through the efforts of Governor Ted Strickland and State Senator Capri Cafaro, \$500,000 was also allocated in FY2008 by the State of Ohio to purchase the building.

“This project represents a tremendous partnership between the federal and state governments to reinvest in our older, urban cores and to jumpstart our economy. Without the leadership of Governor Ted Strickland and State Senator Capri Cafaro, there would be no money to purchase the building and allow this project to move forward,” stated Ryan. **“Additionally, Governor Strickland’s promotion of aggressive advanced energy policies, as well as his administration’s prioritized investment in energy technology and job creation, has positioned Ohio as the #1 State for Renewable and Advanced Energy Manufacturing. We are already seeing the results of these strategic advanced energy investments in Northeastern Ohio – transforming our manufacturing heritage into a green manufacturing future, and creating an environment that will generate ideas, wealth, and jobs for our residents.”**

Congressman Ryan also commended Youngstown State University and Dr. Cynthia Anderson for their involvement in the project as fiscal agent for both the state and federal funding.

“While it’s important for our political leadership to secure funding for projects, it’s equally important to have a strong local partner to administer the funding and to help shape the vision for the facility,” the Congressman said. **“YSU is to be commended for stepping up to the plate to help make this project happen.”**

YSU President Dr. Cynthia Anderson added, **“YSU is pleased to be a partner on the development of the TechBelt Energy Innovation Center. We are looking forward to working with TBEIC to create opportunities for our students and faculty to become engaged in the entrepreneurial work of creating new energy technologies for the**

21st century, and bringing high quality jobs to the Mahoning Valley.”

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